

## Kentucky Civil Rights Discussion Guide and Reading List

This video, produced for the 11<sup>th</sup> grade students in Kentucky schools, presents various aspects of the history of the civil rights movement in Kentucky through the personal experiences of people who participated in efforts to end legal segregation. The video is not intended to present a comprehensive history of the civil rights movement in Kentucky. It is intended to bring an important part of Kentucky history to life through the personal stories of people who took part. Although the video may help Kentuckians prepare to talk about racial differences today; it does not offer action advice for groups or communities interested in long term work on racism and racial justice.

The following suggested questions are offered to assist in group discussions after viewing of the film.

1. In what ways were the personal narratives effective in telling the story?
2. What lessons have you learned from the material presented in the video?
3. How did the video change your knowledge of the Kentucky civil rights struggle?
4. What makes someone a hero? Would you call the people in the video heroes? Who in the video do you relate to most? Why?
5. Did anything in your own life strike a chord with what you saw in the video?

Here are some additional questions for facilitators and groups interested in further steps.

6. How do the lessons of the video relate to you and your community today? What civil rights issues for blacks exist today?
7. Are you interested in seeing whether people here want to meet again to talk about how this community could work to improve civil rights and racial justice?



### Selected Reading List

The following books are available for purchase or are located in libraries across the state. Those currently out of print are so designated.

Braden, Anne. *The Wall Between*. Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 1999 (orig. pub. 1958).

Crawford, Vicki et al., editors. *Women in the Civil Rights Movement: Trailblazers and Torchbearers, 1941-1965*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1993.

Dickerson, Dennis C. *Militant Mediator: Whitney M. Young, Jr.* Lexington: University Press of Kentucky, 1998.

Dunnigan, Alice Allison. *The Fascinating Story of Black Kentuckians*. Washington, D.C.: Associated Publishers, 1982. (Out of print; may be available in the Kentucky Room of local libraries.)

Hall, Wade. *Passing for Black: The Life and Career of Mae Street Kidd*. Lexington: University Press of Kentucky, 1998.

\_\_\_\_\_. *The Rest of the Dream: The Odyssey of Lyman Johnson*. Lexington: University Press of Kentucky, 1988.

Hampton, Henry, and Steve Fayer. *Voices of Freedom: An Oral History of the Civil Rights Movement from the 1950s through the 1960s*. London: Random House, 1988.

Hardin, John A. *Fifty Years of Segregation: Black Higher Education in Kentucky, 1904-1954*. Lexington: University Press of Kentucky, 1997.

Harrison, Lowell, and James C. Klotter. *A New History of Kentucky*. Lexington: University Press of Kentucky, 1997.

Kleber, John, ed. *The Encyclopedia of Louisville*. Lexington: University Press of Kentucky, 2001.

\_\_\_\_\_. *The Kentucky Encyclopedia*. Lexington: University Press of Kentucky, 1992.

Kentucky Commission on Human Rights. *Kentucky's Black Heritage*. Frankfort: Kentucky Commission on Human Rights, 1971. (Out of print; may be available in the Kentucky Room of local libraries and at the KY Virtual Library website.)

Klotter, James C. *Kentucky: Portrait in Paradox, 1900-1950*. Frankfort: Kentucky Historical Society, 1996.

Lucas, Marion B. *A History of Blacks in Kentucky: From Slavery to Segregation, 1760-1891*. Frankfort: Kentucky Historical Society, 1992.

Powers, Georgia Davis. *I Shared the Dream*. New Jersey: New Horizon Press, 1995.

Smith, Gerald. *A Black Educator in the Segregated South: Kentucky's Rufus B. Atwood*. Lexington: University Press of Kentucky, 1994.

Weisbrot, Robert. *Freedom Bound: A History of the Civil Rights Movement*. New York: Penguin, 1991.

Wright, George C. *A History of Blacks in Kentucky: In Pursuit of Equality, 1890-1980*. Frankfort: Kentucky Historical Society, 1992.

\_\_\_\_\_. *Life Behind A Veil: Blacks in Louisville, KY, 1865-1930*. Baton Rouge: Louisiana University Press, 1985. (Out of print; may be available in the Kentucky Room of local libraries.)

\_\_\_\_\_. *Racial Violence in Kentucky, 1865-1940*. Baton Rouge: Louisiana University Press, 1990.



## Websites

<http://www.studycircles.org/pages/racbro.html> offers *Facing the Challenge of Racism and Race Relations*, a guide “designed to help you organize and facilitate dialogue and action that can make a real difference in your community.”

[www.facinghistory.org](http://www.facinghistory.org) describes ways to teach “history as a moral enterprise” to adolescents.

The Civil Rights Movement in Kentucky Project is a program of the Kentucky Oral History Commission of the Kentucky Historical Society. For more information, please contact the commission’s website at [www.kyorallhistory.org](http://www.kyorallhistory.org) or call (502) 564-1792.